

AUTOMOTIVE SECTION

THANKS FOR "THEM KIND WORDS," MR. S.

AUTOMOTIVE SECTION

LIST STATISTICS ON FREIGHT RATES

Compilation of statistical data designed to show railway, waterway, and highway rates in detail, has been undertaken by the Council of National Defense through its highways transportation committee. At the request of officials of the council Capt. A. G.

Stevens, finance division of the war Department, has been assigned to the work. Captain Stevens was engaged in railroad tariff compilation for a number of years before entering the Government service. During the period of America's participation in the war he was in charge of the section which issued vouchers on all railroad freight charges. The rate survey is planned as one of the features of the post-war program, as investigations have developed a surprising lack of definite information regarding highway transportation operating costs. Thus far little or no effort has been made to classify highway freight while the

range of charges even between units operating in the same districts has been remarkably wide, indicating an inexact knowledge of operating costs upon the part of the haulers. Eventually it is believed the sum of the statistics obtained by the Government will serve as a foundation on which rates may be equitably built with due regard for limiting conditions. Incidentally the comparative data received from rail and waterway sources will serve to indicate the economic spheres in which each unit of transportation may serve its fullest purpose, although it is, of course, recognized that the element of special service may always enter into any local situation.

GOOD ADVICE And APPRECIATION From AN AUTOMOBILE EXPERT In Regard to the Campaign Against the Theft Of Cars.

My Dear Mr. Faulkner: Your paper is certainly to be commended for the many excellent articles appearing recently relative to the theft of automobiles. I trust The Times will continue the publicity given this subject in the hope that the public will realize the necessity of co-operating in every particular in the lessening of such crimes, by placing every safe-guard in the nature of locks, as you suggested in your article of June 4. However, I am of the opinion that the real remedy for this class of theft is in the hands of our judges. Hood locks and switch will prevent stealing in most cases, but instances have been recorded where locked cars had been towed away and worked on at leisure by the thief. If thieves knew that a severe penitentiary sentence surely awaited them for the theft of an automobile, they would hesitate before taking a chance. I can not see the difference in the theft of a car that will sell for \$2,000 and stealing \$2,000 in currency, but I am informed such is the law. The joy-ride, if he is successful the first time, tries it again; not being detected the first or second time, he usually develops into a full-fledged automobile thief. Such publicity as you are giving this subject should be taken up by the other newspapers in town and with the co-operation of the public, police, and judges, this character of theft would soon decrease. Very truly yours, CHAS. W. SEMMES.

HE LAUDS THE WAR ON AUTO THIEVES



CHARLES W. SEMMES.

that: "What am I going to do when this job is finished?" One company which had at the start informed every one of its men that enlisting for the fight would not mean the loss of the position, but realizing that many who went away to fight did so with the thought of making a change after the war was over, provided they were fortunate enough to come through, settled the question for many when it met them at the gates of the camp and reached them with the message inside the camp before discharge, with an offer of a position. L. W. Sidwell, president of the Fulton Truck Company of Michigan, went to the doors of Camp Custer and inside the camp with a message to the soldiers. Mr. Sidwell, seeking good salesmen, placed advertisements in papers which reached the soldiers about to be sent back into private life. Mr. Sidwell believes that from the soldier ranks will come salesmen with knowledge, salesmen with information or value to the truck owner or prospective owner, and salesmen with an opinion gained by actual knowledge which will prove decisive in any argument. Believing this, he spoke for the entire Fulton Motor Truck Company organization when he said to these men of arms: "This organization has open to you who realize the possibilities of the truck field positions in which you can succeed." The welcome offer of the Fulton Truck Company of Michigan, so nicely placed by Mr. Sidwell and by others in the Fulton organization in other cities, brought results, and many men, possessing invaluable experience for the gaining of success in the motor truck selling field, were added to the sales staff.

DRIVE FOR UNIFORM TRAFFIC MANDATES

The United States Council of National Defense, through its highways transportation committee, is just now inaugurating a nation-wide campaign for the purpose of bringing about the adoption so far as possible of suggested uniform traffic regulations and directions, that the alarming number of accidents occurring daily on the highways be decreased. It is the belief of the highways transportation committee that through this movement life and limb may be conserved and economic results of an impressive character attained. The courts have estimated the value of a life at \$10,000. In Washington, as an instance, the death toll as last officially announced was at the rate of eighty-two per year. These suggested regulations and directions represent, the Council of National Defense believe, the best and most disinterested thought on the

subject of highway accidents. Prepared originally by William P. Eno, a world authority on police traffic, these regulations and directions have since been submitted for constructive criticisms to secretaries of state, State highway commissioners and engineers, judges and lawyers, publicists who have given close study to this question; traffic authorities in some of the larger cities, the American Automobile Association, the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, the Highway Industries Association, the National Highway Traffic Association, and to scores of individuals competent to pass upon this question.

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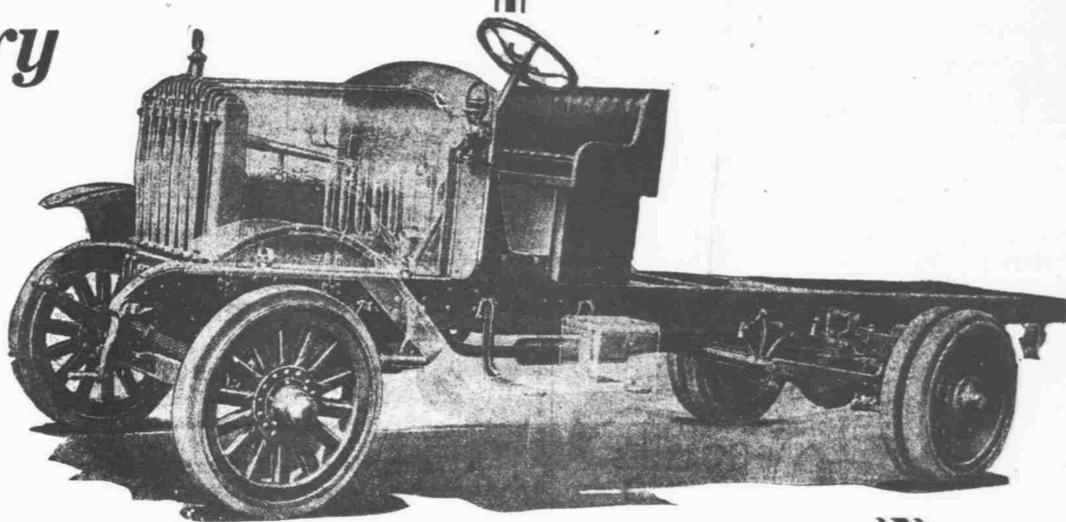
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